

From: eda31 Keefe
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

6426 N. Campbell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

You are doing a wonderful job. I and my family are very grateful that you are our Attorney General. Keep up the good work!

I would like to communicate some of my views regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I believe that after three years of litigation that the issues have been addressed. I think it is best for our nation to settle the matter and move on.

The settlement agreement your office reached is fair and reasonable, and has proven extensive enough to be approved by nine of the suing states. I do not see the need for further federal action, especially while Microsoft is negotiating with the remaining states to reach an agreement. The concessions it has agreed to make antitrust precedent and will require changes in the way that Microsoft licenses, develops, and markets its products.

Computer makers and software engineers will be allowed to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with programs already included within Windows. A technical oversight committee will ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms of the settlement. Perhaps most importantly, the competition will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly if they feel they've been treated unfairly, thus avoiding future federal action.

I think the necessary changes have been made to allow us to close this case. The sooner the IT industry returns its focus to innovation, rather than litigation, the sooner the market and the economy can move forward.

Sincerely,

Edmund A. Keefe